

Elzie, Teri L

To: Connie Smith; Dan Landeen; David Powell; Helen Hillman; Jake Jakabosky; Jamie Zeisloft; John Sands; Larry Gadbois; Larry Goldstein; Lauri Vigue; Stuart Harris; Susan Coburn Hughs; Tom O'Brien; Tom Zeilman
Cc: Elzie, Teri L
Subject: FW: Consensus

Everyone -

Please see message below from Jamie.

Teri

-----Original Message-----

From: Zeisloft, Jamie
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2002 9:13 AM
To: Elzie, Teri L
Subject: Consensus

Teri,

Please forward this to the trustees. Thanks.

RECEIVED
JAN 15 2008

EDMC

Jamie

Folks,

The following excerpt is from the HAB Charter (which is found on their webpage). It's an interesting approach to operating by consensus. The "several layers of consensus" concept is particularly interesting and pertinent to our endeavors.

I've also attached the section of the charter that pertains to task forces. This will give you some background on the HAB sponsored "Hanford Exposure Scenario Task Force" that we've been invited to join.

Jamie

CHARTER and OPERATING GROUND RULES HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

V. DECISION MAKING

A. Major Policy Recommendations

The Board will operate by consensus in seeking to determine what advice the Board as a whole wishes to convey to the Tri-Party agencies on selected major policy issues. In agreeing to operate by consensus, the Board also agrees that it will try to avoid spending an inordinate amount of time striving to achieve consensus on any selected major policy issue at the expense of striving to achieve consensus on other major policy issues.

The Board also recognizes that there are several levels of consensus that may be possible. The first is unanimous agreement among all Board members on the advice to convey. The second is a consensus that can be characterized as all Board members being willing to "live with" a proposed set of advice. The third is one or more Board members registering dissent, but not wishing to block the Board from providing advice that might

otherwise be characterized as a consensus of the Board, but for their dissent. In conveying consensus advice to the agencies, it will be incumbent upon the Board and its chair to accurately describe the level of consensus that has been achieved.

In addition to expressing consent or dissent regarding items proposed for consensus, Board members are free to abstain or "stand aside" from the determination of consensus, if they have a conflict of interest that would prevent them from offering such advice, if it is not part of the mission or role of their appointing organization to participate in discussions on the topic being proposed for consensus, or for whatever other reasons they may choose. It is the responsibility of each Board member or alternate to affirmatively state their desire to abstain from participating in the determination of consensus, if they choose to do so.

VIII. STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, OTHER COMMITTEES, WORK GROUPS AND TASK FORCES

C. Task Forces

As another component of its operation, the Board may wish to form, or encourage the formation of, task forces to address issues that are either time dependent, or more narrowly focused than its primary mission. As used in these ground rules, the term task force is defined as a body whose membership may be drawn from individuals and organizations that do not participate directly on the Hanford Advisory Board, as well as from within the Board.

In establishing such task forces, the Board must determine whether it is forming the task force or simply encouraging its formation. In the case of the former, the established task force would operate similar to a Board committee or work group in that it would not provide advice directly to the Tri-Party agencies, but rather would develop draft proposals regarding such advice that would then be considered by the Board in accordance with the ground rules specified herein. In the case of the latter, the Board would be encouraging the formation of a task force that would be free to provide advice directly to the appropriate agency or agencies under whatever ground rules the task force deems appropriate.

Individuals outside of the Board who are asked to participate in such task forces should have a clear and present interest in the issues to be addressed and a willingness to devote the time and resources necessary to effectively participate in the process.